

Chancroid

Agent: *Haemophilus ducreyi* (bacteria)

Mode of Transmission: Sexual transmission through skin-to-skin contact with open sores. Transmission not related to sexual contact is rare. Auto-inoculation to non-genital sites from open sores may occur.

Signs/Symptoms: One or more sores or raised bumps on the genitals. Sores are surrounded by a narrow red border and become filled with purulent secretion, and eventually rupture, leaving a painful open lesion. The chancroid ulcer is soft to the touch. In 50% of untreated cases, the chancroid bacteria infect the lymph nodes in the groin.

Prevention: Preventive measures include adhering to safe sexual practices and abstaining from sexual relations with an infected partner until the infection is cleared.

Other Important Information: Chancroid is uncommon in the United States. Most cases are seen in tropical countries. This disease is a cofactor for HIV transmission; high rates of HIV infection among patients who have chancroid are seen worldwide.

No cases of chancroid were reported in Virginia in 2016. Only two cases have been reported in Virginia since 2005.